

chief judge is somebody that I used to try cases against when I was a civil rights lawyer before I got into politics. He is an esteemed jurist.

Yes, the Fourth Circuit has rendered some rulings in this case that the pipeline operator doesn't like. I used to lose cases in the Fourth Circuit. I wasn't always happy with them. But the people that I represented—if you lose a case, you appeal; you don't rewrite the Federal jurisdictional code to say this court can no longer hear the case, in the middle of the case.

If we go down this path on this project, I can see it opening a door we will not want to open, a door that could even lead to corruption: I am a wealthy, powerful corporation; I don't like the way the Second Circuit is ruling on derivative shareholder suits. Maybe I can strip jurisdiction away from them. I don't like the way the Ninth Circuit is ruling on employment discrimination cases. Maybe I could strip jurisdiction away from them.

I get it that a big company is not happy because they have lost a case. Fifty percent of our litigants are unhappy. Someone wins and somebody loses, but the solution is not to take jurisdiction away from the court that is hearing the case and give it to another court. That is not the solution. The solution is to improve the permitting process.

There are two elements of the first 85 pages of the bill that actually help Mountain Valley Pipeline. One element would be, in the first 85 pages, that President Biden—the President, in the bill, is allowed to designate 15 projects of national significance and then expedite them. That is in the first 85 pages. And if President Biden decided the Mountain Valley Pipeline was so important to make that top 15 list, that permitting reform could help the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

And, second, there is a provision in the first 85 pages that would require that on matters that come up again and again and again, the panels on circuit courts have to rotate and randomly assign and not keep the same panel. That would solve one of Mountain Valley Pipeline's professed concerns.

So because I haven't seen the language yet, it may not still be final, and I would urge those pushing it: Do permitting reform, but don't exempt a project in my State from the permits, don't exempt it from judicial review, don't strip jurisdiction away from my hometown court and give it to another court.

I was never consulted about this. My constituents feel very, very passionately. Their land is being taken for this. The only way you build pipelines is to take people's land, and this is 100 miles in Virginia of people's land being taken, and this body should not greenlight a project and exempt it from permitting rules in a bill that we are saying is designed to improve permitting.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON MORA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mora nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 391 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Paul
Bennet	Hirono	Peters
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reed
Booker	Kelly	Rosen
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

#### NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Toomey
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Young

#### NOT VOTING—4

Burr	Hickenlooper
Crux	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, it is always an honor to speak on the Senate floor, and it is especially an honor when the Presiding Officer is one of my favorite Members of the Senate and especially an honor when I am going to be followed by the other Senator from Ohio, about whom I spoke yesterday.

#### SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Madam President, I think we can agree that we had a very productive 23 months in this session of the U.S. Sen-

ate. Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which will lower prescription drug costs, which will combat climate change, and which will hold corporations accountable when they reward CEOs at the expense of workers.

We worked together on a bipartisan basis, and I worked with my colleague Senator PORTMAN to pass a historic infrastructure bill. Presidents of both parties promised it, and we finally got it done, starting last year, with a new President and a new Senate. It means moving forward on projects Americans need, like the Brent Spence Bridge, which is in Senator PORTMAN's community on the other end of my State. It connects my State to Leader McCONNELL's State. The Brent Spence Bridge—they say something like 3 percent of GDP crosses over that bridge every single day.

Senator PORTMAN and I also worked together to make sure that we had strong "Buy American" language—the strongest ever "Buy American" language. We teamed up because we know the jobs that creates in my State.

We passed the PACT Act, again bipartisan, the most comprehensive expansion of benefits for veterans who faced toxic exposure in our country's history.

Senator TESTER, who sits just two seats away from me here and who came to the Senate with me—Senator TESTER from Montana chairs the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I will be, next year, the second-most senior member of that committee. We wrote that bill together. I give more credit to Senator TESTER, but we worked together. It is the most comprehensive expansion of benefits.

I have been in 15 Ohio counties since that bill passed talking to people. If you are diagnosed as a veteran with one of the 23 illnesses this bill spells out and you were exposed to these football field-sized burn pits in Iraq or Afghanistan, you automatically will get coverage in the Cleveland VA or Dayton or Cincinnati or Chillicothe or in one of the community-based clinics in Zanesville or Mansfield or Parma.

After decades of inaction, we passed the first meaningful legislation on gun safety in decades, which will help make our schools and communities a bit safer.

This summer—again, bipartisan, with Senator PORTMAN and others—we passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which is already helping to reshore semiconductor manufacturing in the United States.

Earlier today, I was with a number of people from Intel, the company that is going to have a huge expansion. That company has promised, when they hire 5,000 workers—which they have already started to do the construction of the Intel manufacturing plant—that they are hiring a lot of so-called PLA, which means they will hire union workers.

And in the worst depths—and this is what I want to talk about in more detail. Sorry for the long lead-in.